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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

There are some among us who, if not too much oppressed by modesty, may consider it a boon that the enterprise of the age occasionally seeks to compensate those who were not born great by thrusting greatness upon them. You may feel constrained to acknowledge that you lack a generous congenital endowment and may be doubtful whether your endeavors have achieved greatness for you, when in walks a representative of modern tendencies and submits for your inspection a series of portraits of illustrious physicians. There you find likenesses of Koch and Lister and Ehrlich and other *dii majorum* and a few *minorum gentium*. You inquire in this connection what your visitor expects of you and are thrilled to learn that he merely desires to add your portrait to his gallery of celebrities. You protest your unworthiness to enter such brilliant company, but he assures you that the arbiters at Berlin have carefully investigated your title to appear among the elect. Indeed he himself exhibits a surprising, and flattering, acquaintance with the character and extent of your accomplishments and with the exclusive societies which you adorn, and intimates that it would be affectation to persist in your attitude of humility. And, on second thought, is there not an arrogance of humility? After all, may not those publications of yours which were so lightly considered by you when you produced them before your County Society—may they not among the enthusiastic specialists of a great medical center have found that applause which you deny yourself? For a moment you incline a more attentive ear to his persuasive speech, and then again dubiety. Are

you alone in your glory in these remote regions? With misgiving heart, something like Abou ben Adhem, you ask to see the list of those held in equal esteem with yourself. *O tempora, O mores!* The venality of glory! Impecuniosity alone excludes from this hall of factitious fame. You see the names and you hear the price. The latter formidable, and among the former the vain, the brazen and the rapacious, all apparently eager to submit to the process of having greatness thrust upon them. You sigh to think that greatness is not necessarily a distinction.

Every member of the Society should read carefully the minutes of the House of Delegates at the Del Monte meeting. A number of important resolutions were introduced and some changes of moment were made.

The most important of these is in the matter of dues. The payment of the annual assessment to the State Society was changed from January 1st to February 1st. This allows county society secretaries the whole month of January in which to collect dues from their members. The date of delinquency was advanced from April 1st to March 1st. Any members not reported as in good standing and their assessment paid for the year in advance by March 1st, will be automatically dropped as from the end of the previous year. In other words, we start fresh with January 1st of each year and only those who have been reported and paid for by the first of March are considered as members for that year. This means that any member who neglects to pay his dues before March 1st, loses his protection by the State Society in case he should be sued for malpractice. It is most important that this fact be impressed upon all members. The business of the Society is becoming so large and so important that it is absolutely essential that we stick closely to business methods. It looks like a small matter to let one's dues run for a month or two more or less, but it is not a small matter at all. We must have definite, fixed dates at which dates a given individual is or is not a member of the Society. It is not fair for those who do pay promptly to have to take care of those who do not, and possibly have the Society put to a good deal of expense to do so. There is plenty of time between now and next January to thoroughly instruct your members upon the necessity for prompt payment.

Dr. Huntington, in the closing paragraphs of his Presidential address, says: ". . . those interested in medicine, as teachers or students, should be admonished regarding a sentiment which is of exceeding import and finds expression in the command, *Be ye Humane*. With propriety these words, which suggest the spirit and the substance of the humanities, might be written upon the portals of every school and hospital." The whole address deals with the necessity for higher education in medicine and discusses the

methods and machinery required. But in this discussion of methods and means and higher education, Dr. Huntington did not forget to call strongly to our attention the fact, perhaps too often forgotten, that each patient is not only a "case," but that he is a human being and to be so considered. With the introduction of higher educational work and standards we have, perhaps, come to place too high a value on the scientific consideration of the "case" and to forget, in some measure, the patient as a human entity.

The January issue of the American Medical Association Bulletin is quite a remarkable document. It is devoted to a statement of the work and the range

#### ASSOCIATION BULLETIN.

of activities of the Council on Health and Public Instruction,

and all the sub-committees that were combined with and put under the control of this Council. The Secretary of the Council, Dr. Frederick R. Green, is to be highly complimented upon the manner in which he has brought order out of all these chaotic elements and upon the large amount of most valuable educational work that is being continuously done by the Council through his office. It is utterly foolish and hopeless for us to expect any general public health legislation until the people have learned the necessity for it. It is worse than useless for us to try to secure such legislation by sending people to Washington; the demand must come from the people, and it will only come when they know what they need and why they need it. It was one of the wisest things ever done, when the news bureau of the Council was started and when news items of general interest, but of an educational public health nature, were prepared and sent to the newspapers. A lecture bureau is being organized, the idea being to have competent physicians give a number of public addresses in every state, letting the people know exactly what they can do for their own betterment and protection by securing proper public health legislation. Drop a line to the Association, 535 Dearborn avenue, Chicago, and ask for this "Public Education Number" of the Bulletin; it will surprise you to see the range of work that the Association is doing through the Council on Health and Public Instruction.

Nearly every publication in this country has commented, editorially, on the *Titanic* disaster.

In its magnitude and in the short space of time which elapsed between supposedly the best that life has in it and ob-

livion, it was so great that, naturally, but few words of all those printed are worth more than passing notice. One exceedingly good expression of opinion is to be found in *Printers' Ink*, a trade publication dealing with advertising and advertisers. The argument of the article in *Printers' Ink* is that the calamity was directly due to a senseless desire on the part of the steamship company to get a lot of free advertising for itself by making a record run for the class of ship of the

*Titanic*. Undoubtedly, had the ship come in on the time she was making, the newspapers would have printed columns and columns of articles on the ship, her record, her luxuries, etc. "The terrible tragedy of the *Titanic* was due primarily to a false conception of advertising." "This is not the first time that human life has been the price of this wickedly wrong idea of advertising. How many lives have been lost in automobile races? How long would such races exist if the newspapers refused to donate space to them and referred the manufacturers to the regular, paid-for advertising columns?"

Why should you skip this editorial even if it does concern the subject of fee-splitting? If you

are a "splitter," read it just to see what we have to say; if you are a worthy member of the profession in spite of the handicap of refusing to resort to

the practice, you surely will be interested. Ever so often there creeps into our literature a word here or there decrying the medical commission habit, but who has seemed to care? The few kind words here and now indited are an effort to bring home to the consciousness, not the conscience, of some of us that it is high time to care, nay, it is imperative to care, lest smugness be our undoing. Listen! A certain person named Dosch, who rakes muck for a living, has written some most engaging stuff in *Pearson's Magazine* concerning the habit, or let us call it the addiction, of a large number of the medical profession to fee-splitting. One likes to approach these sorts of diatribes with nares plugged. With that precaution taken, the thing is well worth reading, for while it reeks necessarily of muck, it reeks as strongly of truth, and we believe that when we say truth is not always pleasant, the remark is not original. Hearken! To be discovered is nothing new with us, but to be given effective publicity along these distasteful lines will be a rather novel experience. Now that the subjects of political graft, the eternal foulness of ill-gotten wealth, the disgrace of the sweatshops, etc., are well nigh exhausted, what more natural than that the self-constituted literary reformers should turn to us and our weaknesses? Where can field be found more fruitful? The thing can be averted and should be averted before we are held up as the pretty specimens we should appear. Let us clean house while there is yet time. Let our leading men, some of whom have erred habitually in the matter of fee-splitting, cease their malevolent nefariousness and stand up in attitude militant for the right. Let their militancy be as energetic in this regard as it is in some matters of our printed "ethics." We recall at least one locally eminent member of our profession, who in the old days of the graft prosecution was loud in raising his voice for civic virtue, but who probably that day or a few days before, and certainly afterward, split fees. There are others of us who shout loudly for Roosevelt under the idea that he may be pre-eminently the apostle for all kinds of honesty and decency, but pretty clowns we should appear if our account